

Author's Perspective

1. The following is from a product review of a Toyota car:

I have not driven many cars, so I won't compare the Toyota Avalon with other cars. But let me tell you one thing: I had an accident at 85 mph, and this car saved my and my wife's life. There was not much damage to the car because the frontal safety features took all the blow. Only a few parts had to be changed after the accident. The radiator was gone, of course. I have seen cars getting totaled at 45 mph accident but not this Avalon.

Which word describes the author's attitude toward the Toyota Avalon?

- ☐ A. afraid
 - ☐ B. favorable
 - ☐ C. unsure
 - ☐ D. obnoxious
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Alessandro's: A Review

After visiting Alessandro's, an exclusive new restaurant, I was reminded that first impressions can be very deceiving. Alessandro's is decorated in the type of quirky, funky artwork that I love to look at. One work in particular caught my eye—a stark black and white photograph of a dog eating with a knife and fork. I enjoyed looking around the restaurant so much that I didn't notice that it took the hostess 15 minutes to bring me a menu. After I finally had the opportunity to browse the menu, I noticed something strange. There were no prices listed on the menu. I looked around for a waiter or waitress to ask about this unusual practice, but I could not find any waitstaff in sight. In fact, it was another half an hour before my waiter arrived to bring me a much-needed glass of water.

When my meal arrived, I was impressed by the pleasing visual arrangement of the food. This warm and fuzzy feeling was soon replaced by shock and disgust, however. My food must have taken so long to arrive because the chef was busy draining the ocean for enough salt to make the soup inedible. He or she must have then spent another few hours overcooking the chicken, while skillfully managing to leave the bread raw and doughy in the middle. The fact that my waiter never returned to my table prevented me from being able to return the meal to the kitchen. When I finally grew tired of pushing the inedible food around on my plate, I searched until I found the restaurant manager. She was coldly polite as I explained the mysteries of the disappearing waiter and the beautiful but horrific food. Without offering to provide another meal or locate my waiter, the manager handed me

my bill and told me that I should find another restaurant on the block to meet my high standards.

I left the exact amount of the bill (fortunately paid for by this newspaper and not out of my pocket) and took the manager's advice. I ate a delicious steak and baked potato at Joe's Grill down the street. Unlike their over-priced and unfriendly neighbor, Joe's Grill earned my unqualified approval.

2. Why does the author most likely use an informal tone throughout this review?

- ☐ **A.** to let the reader know not to take him/her seriously
- ☐ **B.** to mock readers who like to eat at Alessandro's
- ☐ **C.** to develop a personal connection with the reader
- ☐ **D.** to show that the overall experience was pleasant

3. Why does the author most likely include positive comments about Alessandro's?

- ☐ **A.** to show that he/she has been receiving money from Alessandro's
- ☐ **B.** to explain why he/she was surprised to have a negative experience
- ☐ **C.** to suggest that the article is a satire, not a true restaurant review
- ☐ **D.** to prove that he/she was wrong about Alessandro's Restaurant

4. Which of these is an example of the reviewer's use of humor to convince people to avoid Alessandro's?

- ☐ **A.** "The fact that my waiter never returned to my table prevented me from being able to return the meal to the kitchen."
- ☐ **B.** "I looked around for a waiter or waitress to ask about this unusual practice, but I could not find any waitstaff in sight."
- ☐ **C.** "My food must have taken so long to arrive because the chef was busy draining the ocean for enough salt to make the soup inedible."
- ☐ **D.** "When I finally grew tired of pushing the inedible food around on my plate, I searched until I found the restaurant manager."

5. What audience would be most likely to read this review?

- ☐ **A.** readers who are training to become restaurant managers
- ☐ **B.** readers who are looking for good financial investments
- ☐ **C.** readers who are interested in trying new restaurants
- ☐ **D.** readers who enjoy eating the food at Alessandro's

6. A short walk on a trail, a quick swim in a lake, even a brief moment of repose looking at a scenic vista can reinvigorate you and recharge your "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness." Take advantage of public recreation sites, and spend time maintaining your physical as well as psychological health. Get active—it can help reduce feelings of depression and anxiety, and help maintain your appropriate body weight. Parks, bikeways, trails . . . they are "re-

creation" sites for mind, body, and spirit.

Which word describes the author's attitude toward recreational parks?

- ☐ A. affirmative
 - ☐ B. unfavorable
 - ☐ C. detrimental
 - ☐ D. harmful
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The Flood

by J. Robbins

"Hey, Merton, can I borrow a can opener?" asked Atticus as he walked across the gym. Merton, who was trying to unroll a sleeping bag, nodded toward a box on the floor.

"I think my mom threw some kitchen stuff in that box," Merton replied. "I wasn't really paying attention to what she was packing. You can check if you want, but I'm not going to dig through all that stuff. Do you have an extra pillow? I was so busy packing my iPod and games that I forgot to bring a pillow."

"Nope," said Atticus. "The police rushed us out of the house so quickly that I didn't even grab my pillow. Did you ask Wolfram?" Merton glanced around the gym until he saw Wolfram helping a police officer unload supplies from a wheelbarrow.

"Let's go ask him," Merton said to Atticus. "He has been helping the police all day, and I'm sure he wants to take a break. Maybe we can even convince him to let us borrow his laptop to play video games." They crossed the gym quickly, waving to friends and neighbors as they passed by.

"It looks like they evacuated the entire town," Atticus remarked. "The flooding must be worse than I thought. Good thing the high school was built on a hill!"

"Yeah!" agreed Merton. "This is the coolest thing to happen in years. We won't have to go to classes, and I brought my comic books for us to read." Atticus let out a loud whoop and gave his friend a high-five. Wolfram looked up with a smile as his friends approached.

"Oh, good," Wolfram said. "You guys can help unload these wheelbarrows. We have to hurry because they need the wheelbarrows outside as soon as possible. The fire department is using them to bring sandbags to the flooded areas." Atticus and Merton exchanged worried glances.

"This is getting serious," exclaimed Atticus.

"Getting out of class for a few days doesn't seem so great now," admitted Merton. "I hope this emergency is over soon so everyone can go back to their regular lives." Behind them, the gym door opened and a rain-soaked group walked in.

"Rhapsody!" called Wolfram as he spotted his cousin. "Are you okay?" Rhapsody shivered in her thin jacket and nodded miserably.

"We had to leave all our stuff behind," she replied. "Our house was completely destroyed, but thankfully, the police were able to get us all to safety." Wolfram looked at his friends and cleared his throat loudly.

"Oh! You can have my extra sleeping bag," said Atticus. "I have a spare blanket, too, if you want it."

"My sister brought enough clothes to dress an army," Merton told Rhapsody. "I can ask her if she'll let you borrow some of her clothes."

"We'll save a few boxes of supplies for you," promised Wolfram. "You won't need anything as long as we're around."

"You guys are the best!" Rhapsody exclaimed gratefully. They resumed unloading supplies and chatting happily as the rain slowly began to taper off outside.

7. Which of the following best describes the mood at the end of the passage?

- ☐ A. tense
 - ☐ B. hopeful
 - ☐ C. ominous
 - ☐ D. eerie
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8. How does the author use setting in this passage?

- ☐ A. The uninteresting setting complements the ordinary events of the plot.
 - ☐ B. The dramatic setting contrasts with the cheerful attitudes of the characters.
 - ☐ C. The dangerous setting contributes to the rising tension at the end of the passage.
 - ☐ D. The boring setting contrasts with the dramatic tension between the characters.
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9. How does Merton's character change from the beginning of the passage to the end?

- ☐ A. He starts off selfishly thinking only of his own needs but becomes more compassionate toward others.
 - ☐ B. He starts off as timid and quiet but grows more self-confident as he helps to coordinate the evacuation.
 - ☐ C. He starts off as brash and arrogant but gradually learns to respect the opinions and values of other people.
 - ☐ D. He starts off feeling guilty for abandoning his family in the flood but feels better after helping other people in need.
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10. Which of the following best describes the character of Wolfram?

- ☐ A. He thinks Merton and Atticus are immature for their age.
 - ☐ B. He is embarrassed that his cousin has to borrow clothes.
 - ☐ C. He is concerned for other people's safety and comfort.
 - ☐ D. He feels guilty for having more money than his friends.
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11. In this passage, Rhapsody's situation serves primarily to

- ☐ A. add a comedic element to the plot of the passage.
- ☐ B. highlight the serious consequences of the flood.
- ☐ C. show the competition between Merton and Atticus.
- ☐ D. emphasize the ineffective efforts of the police.

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- 12.** Martial arts fantasy films from Hong Kong traditionally squeeze poor acting, slapstick humor, and silly story lines between elaborate fight scenes in which characters can literally fly. *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* has no shortage of breathtaking battles, but it also has the dramatic soul of a Greek tragedy and the sweep of an epic romance. This is the work of director Ang Lee, who fell in love with movies while watching martial arts fantasy films as a youngster and made *Crouching Tiger* as a tribute to the form.

What can readers tell about the author's attitude in this passage?

- ☐ **A.** The author thinks the acting in *Crouching Tiger* is poor.
 - ☐ **B.** The author thinks *Crouching Tiger* is a good movie.
 - ☐ **C.** The author thinks *Crouching Tiger* was a boring movie.
 - ☐ **D.** The author thinks *Crouching Tiger* has no battle scenes.
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Alaska's vast Denali National Park is divided into designated tracts of wilderness, some as big as whole counties. Snowfields and glaciers on the northern face of the Alaska Range mountains feed wide-braided rivers that cut valleys through tundra. The landscape is treeless and trail-less as far as you can see, and far beyond. There are no markers or signposts to designate where one tract ends and another begins. They appear only on maps for the purpose of allotting back-country hiking permits.

A portion of one of the tracts is even more special. It's off-limits. It's called Sable Pass, 60 or so square miles of lumpy tundra protected against human intrusion, except for scientists who have carved themselves an exemption. The purpose is to give wildlife one true sanctuary from people. Sable Pass is in my thoughts because the last of the nation's public lands are in political play these days, and too often we limit the discussion to how these lands should be "used." Backpackers versus Jeeps. Oil drilling versus caribou. Tree cutters versus tree huggers. Jobs versus recreation.

I would feel better about the future if our political debate about public lands accounted for the intangible, but vital, need for wilderness. Not just for nature's sake but for the sake of our souls. Can elk live on pastures with cows? Yes. Can caribou co-exist with oil rigs? They do. Grizzly bears can live in garbage dumps too.

But wilderness, true wilderness, does not exist with cow pastures and oil rigs and garbage dumps. Wilderness is not defined by how it can be used. Like Sable Pass, wilderness is about not using it at all. Except to preserve our diminishing sense of wonder.

- 13.** What can you tell about the author's attitude toward the wilderness?

- ☐ **A.** The author is in favor of preserving the wilderness as much as possible.
 - ☐ **B.** The author thinks man and animal can easily coexist in the wilderness.
 - ☐ **C.** The author believes people can't carefully develop any areas of wilderness.
 - ☐ **D.** The author feels that the government is overprotective of the wilderness.
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- 14.** What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- ☐ **A.** to persuade political leaders to use caution when developing wilderness land
- ☐ **B.** to persuade readers that wilderness is best left totally alone
- ☐ **C.** to convince readers to go hiking in the Denali National Park

- ☐ D. to inform readers of the huge environmental crisis that looms ahead

15. Based on the tone of this passage, the author is most likely a member of which group?

- ☐ A. a garbage collection agency
☐ B. a logging company
☐ C. a hiking and camping club
☐ D. an organization for farmers
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Movie Night

by J. Robbins

"I've told you a hundred times that I don't like horror movies," Zenovia told her best friend as she watched him load a disc into the DVD player.

"You love that silly *Eveningtime* movie, and I find its bad acting and inane dialogue scarier than any horror movie," Fandorin responded.

"*Eveningtime* has vampires in it, but they aren't scary," said Zenovia with an exasperated sigh.

"*Nosferatu* is a classic film in every sense of the word," Fandorin insisted. "It has influenced the vampire legend since it was released in 1922. You're studying Bram Stoker's *Dracula* in English class, and you should see this vampire film as part of your education."

"Fine," replied Zenovia grudgingly. "I just hope this 'educational' film doesn't make me scream my head off."

"You haven't started the movie yet, have you?" Quincy called from the door. He hurried over to the table and deposited an armload of sodas and snacks. His sister Ariadne followed him into the room and plopped down on the couch.

"What archaic movie is Fandorin foisting on us tonight? I hope I'll be able to stay awake," Ariadne whispered to Zenovia.

"I heard that," said Fandorin, his face red. "Just because a movie is old doesn't make it archaic. I promise you'll like it, guys. Trust me!"

The movie began to play as the group devoured their food. Fandorin watched his friends' faces closely and was pleased to see that they were quickly drawn into the story. The room filled with silent anticipation as the *Nosferatu* character began to reveal his true nature. Zenovia, Ariadne, and Quincy's nerves were stretched to the breaking point as they stared mesmerized at the television.

Suddenly, the door slammed open with a crash, and a masked figure loomed in the doorway. Ariadne and Quincy screamed loudly and ducked under the coffee table while Zenovia hurled the remote control at the intruder in an instinctive movement. The remote bounced off the figure's head and dislodged his mask.

"Eustace, you are the biggest pest in the world," exclaimed Fandorin when his younger brother was revealed behind the monster mask. "This is exactly the kind of stunt that got you banned from movie night." He jumped up from his seat to chase his sibling out of the room.

"I totally knew that it was Eustace," Quincy claimed shakily. "I just wanted to grab this cookie that had rolled under the table."

"Right, Q," said Ariadne. "At least I'm not afraid to admit I was terrified. Zenovia wasn't afraid, though—she was Zenovia the Vampire Slayer!"

"Hey, that could be a viable back-up career," Zenovia laughed. "Let's get back to the movie." Fandorin returned to his seat and handed Zenovia the remote control.

"I told you it was a great film," Fandorin told her with a wink.

"Yeah, yeah," replied Zenovia. "You were right. Don't let it go to your head, though, or we'll put

you in the hall with Eustace."

16. The author uses the ninth paragraph of this passage to do which of the following?

- ☐ **A.** change the main setting of the story
 - ☐ **B.** create conflict between Ariadne and Quincy
 - ☐ **C.** resolve the tension between Zenovia and Fandorin
 - ☐ **D.** build dramatic tension within the story
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17. In the seventh paragraph, the word "archaic" suggests that

- ☐ **A.** Ariadne enjoys television more than movies.
 - ☐ **B.** Ariadne is tired of watching horror movies.
 - ☐ **C.** Ariadne will only watch movies with vampires.
 - ☐ **D.** Ariadne thinks old movies are uninteresting.
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18. Which of the following best describes the mood at the end of this passage?

- ☐ **A.** combative
 - ☐ **B.** harmonious
 - ☐ **C.** anxious
 - ☐ **D.** sentimental
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19. What does the author suggest about Quincy in this passage?

- ☐ **A.** He feels compassionate toward Eustace.
 - ☐ **B.** He is jealous of Fandorin's movie knowledge.
 - ☐ **C.** He cannot afford to buy his own food.
 - ☐ **D.** He wants to appear brave to his friends.
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Merchants of Cool, a PBS Frontline documentary, shows how companies exploit the youth culture. The documentary talks about how advertisers market products to teenagers by studying their hopes and desires. They then sell these hopes and desires back to teens in a diabolical feedback loop.

The film describes how marketers study teens to figure out what's "cool." Information on what is "cool" is used to create products that reflect exactly what teens want. For example, Sprite wanted to increase its market share in the soft-drinks category; therefore, it launched teen-targeted ad campaigns. The company featured hip hop artists, baggy jeans, and sneakers in its ads. Teens were able to connect with this culture, and this boosted Sprite sales.

This documentary should be shown at every junior and senior school. By watching this film, teenagers will realize how advertisers are manipulating them.

20. Which of the following sentences best reveals the author's attitude toward *Merchants of Cool*?

- ☐ A. "The company featured hip hop artists, baggy jeans, and sneakers in its ads."
 - ☐ B. "The film describes how marketers study teens to figure out what's 'cool.' "
 - ☐ C. "Teens were able to connect with this culture, and this boosted Sprite sales."
 - ☐ D. "This documentary should be shown at every junior and senior school."
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21. What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- ☐ A. to criticize all TV advertisers for exploiting teenagers
 - ☐ B. to get more teenagers to watch *Merchants of Cool*
 - ☐ C. to emphasize the importance of documentaries
 - ☐ D. to tell the story of clever advertising companies
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22. The author of this selection feels

- ☐ A. that documentary viewing should be mandatory.
 - ☐ B. that companies take unfair advantage of teens.
 - ☐ C. companies run advertisements to help kids learn.
 - ☐ D. advertisers should better understand teenagers.
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23. Carve out the time for 30 minutes of moderate activity, such as a brisk walk, at least 5 days a week—or commit to 20 minutes of vigorous physical activity at least 3 times a week. It can reduce the risk of dying prematurely from diabetes, high blood pressure, and several forms of cancer, while making you feel better and more cheerful. Take a hike, shoot a picture, ride a bike, go birding, get wet, climb a tree. Be active, and use your public recreation sites often.

What is the author's attitude toward light exercise?

- ☐ A. The author thinks exercising is a waste of time.
 - ☐ B. The author thinks exercise can greatly improve one's health.
 - ☐ C. The author thinks only a lot of exercise makes a difference.
 - ☐ D. The author has no opinion on exercise.
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24. According to *Consumer Reports*, the average consumer considers the price of a computer more important than its speed. Fortunately, computers are becoming faster, better, *and* cheaper! You can expect to pay between \$600 and \$3,000 for a new computer. Buy the best computer you can afford. This will reduce your need to upgrade and extend the overall life of the computer. The Federal Consumer Information Center says when purchasing a new computer, look for things like a good warranty, a DVD drive, and CD-RW unit. A scanner and/or a printer added to the package can boost your computer's capacity and help you do

many additional tasks.

What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- ☐ A. to persuade the reader to buy a scanner and/or a printer with the computer
 - ☐ B. to inform the reader that computers are becoming more efficient by becoming faster
 - ☐ C. to convince the reader to buy the best computer that he/she can afford
 - ☐ D. to persuade the reader that it's best to pay between \$600 and \$3,000 for a computer
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Poor Folk

by J. Robbins

"Why are you hiding back here?" asked Roosevelt as he approached his friend Delphinia. She had her head buried in a book, as usual, and she was sitting at a table in the loneliest part of the library.

"I'm not hiding," Delphinia replied, blinking blearily at her friend. "I'm trying to finish this book before my afternoon classes start. If it would stop raining for ten minutes, I could read outside, but I'm beginning to doubt that we'll ever see the sun again."

"Oh, please," said Roosevelt with a grin. "You shouldn't let a little thing like the weather get you down. Rain, sun, or snow—I can handle any kind of weather. You're too hard to please. What are you reading now?"

"*Poor Folk* by Fyodor Dostoevsky," Delphinia said. "This book is so good that I'm having a hard time putting it down." Roosevelt paled and rubbed his hands across his face.

"Really? What an . . . interesting title," he told her. "How did you happen to choose that book? I've never even heard of it."

"My grandmother suggested it," she answered. "She was a professor at Yale for twenty years, and I always try to take her recommendations seriously. Dostoevsky is my favorite writer, so I decided to spend my allowance on a brand-new copy." She watched in alarm as Roosevelt groaned and clapped his hands over his face.

"You spent your allowance," he muttered. "I guess that answers the question I came here to ask you."

"What is going on, Roosevelt?" Delphinia asked.

"I need to borrow some money right away, Del!" he exclaimed. "I hate to bring up the topic of money when I still owe you \$50, but this is an emergency. I need to have the brakes on my car fixed before Friday or Polina won't even think about going to the dance with me." Delphinia rolled her eyes in exasperation.

"What about your part-time job?" she questioned her friend. "I thought working at BurgerMatic was going to solve all of your financial troubles."

"It did for a while," admitted Roosevelt. "Until I started taking time off to date Polina. Now I'm in worse trouble than before."

"This is not good, Roos," Delphinia sighed. "Isn't there any way you can earn the money before Friday?"

"I guess I could ask Wilco," he said thoughtfully. "He's the only friend I haven't borrowed cash from. Of course, he's saving every penny for college, but I'm sure I can talk him into helping me out just this once." Delphinia's face darkened with anger.

"That's terrible!" she replied as thunder crashed outside. "You are taking advantage of your friends instead of taking responsibility for your actions. I have money in my savings account, but I won't lend you any of it. I hope Polina dumps you for Wilco. At least he has his priorities in order." Delphinia returned to her book, and Roosevelt sauntered out of the library without another word.

As he opened his umbrella and prepared to step out into the driving rain, he checked his watch. *If I hurry, I can still catch Wilco before he leaves for lunch*, Roosevelt thought. Above him, the clouds darkened across the stormy sky, but he paid no attention to the ominous weather.

25. Which of the following images best reflect the way Delphinia feels at the end of the passage?

- ☐ **A.** the umbrella
- ☐ **B.** the table in the library
- ☐ **C.** the book *Poor Folk*
- ☐ **D.** the thunderstorm

26. What causes Delphinia to refuse to lend money to Roosevelt?

- ☐ **A.** his attempts to date Polina
- ☐ **B.** his close friendship with Wilco
- ☐ **C.** his refusal to read Dostoevsky
- ☐ **D.** his past irresponsible behavior

27. What is the best way to describe how Roosevelt feels in this passage?

- ☐ **A.** overconfident
- ☐ **B.** humiliated
- ☐ **C.** bored
- ☐ **D.** repentant

28. What does the author suggest about Roosevelt in the last paragraph of the passage?

- ☐ **A.** He has finally decided to become a writer.
- ☐ **B.** His attitude is changed by Delphinia's words.
- ☐ **C.** His problems will continue to grow worse.
- ☐ **D.** He will become a better friend and worker.

Legendary

by J. Robbins

"Can you remind me again why we're doing this?" asked Teague. He glanced over at Verna, who was putting the finishing touches on their masterpiece.

"We have to make our mark on this high school before we graduate," Verna replied. "If our parade float wins first place at the Homecoming parade, we will be legendary."

"Right," sighed Teague, as he adjusted his costume and wig carefully. "I just hope no one has copied our design."

"Impossible!" Verna stated with confidence. "Ours is going to be the most unique float out there today."

"Five minutes to show time!" called Homer, the student body president. He walked past Teague and Verna's float and stopped dead in his tracks.

"What is that?" Homer asked slowly. He rubbed his eyes as if hoping to wake up from a bad dream.

"This is our entry for the parade," explained Verna. "It's a *Star Wars*-themed float. Isn't it great?" She pulled her stormtrooper helmet over her head and prepared to push the float into position for the parade.

"I can't believe this," replied Homer with a shake of his head. "You clearly didn't read the rules of the contest. The theme of this year's parade is 'A Look Back at History.' The other floats feature people like George Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—not spacemen from a movie franchise!"

"We are going to be the laughingstocks of the school," Teague groaned. He felt dizzy and sat down on a nearby curb. His Jedi costume suddenly seemed three times too small.

"Well, technically *Star Wars* takes place 'a long time ago,' " hedged Verna as she looked around at the other floats. Everyone else was dressed in historically accurate clothing that made her cheap costume look ridiculous. She glanced at Teague, who had put his head between his knees to avoid passing out.

"Wait, I have it!" Homer said. "You can enter your float in the contest as an homage to movies that changed filmmaking. That's the ticket—movies that made history!"

"That's an excellent idea, Homer," replied Verna.

"Maybe this parade won't be a total disaster after all," Homer muttered as he hurried away.

"Yeah, thanks, man," Teague called after him. The color slowly returned to his face, and he leapt up from the curb to help Verna push their float into the parade line.

"This is not exactly the way I had imagined it," remarked Verna as she surveyed the crowd lining the parade route. The faces blended together until she felt as though a tide of humanity was rushing toward her at breakneck speed.

"Hey, look at the star dorks!" one of the onlookers hooted derisively. Verna felt her stomach flip-flop with anxiety.

"Beam us up, Scotty," Teague whispered under his breath.

"That's a *Star Trek* reference, silly," Verna corrected him. "Let's just relax and have a good time. Even if everyone makes fun of us, at least they're paying attention to us for once." Teague considered her words as the parade began.

"I guess you're right," he told Verna with a smile. "I'll settle for notoriety over anonymity any day."

29. How does Teague's mood change from the beginning of the passage to the end?

- ☐ A. from pleased to resentful
- ☐ B. from hesitant to accepting
- ☐ C. from annoyed to embittered
- ☐ D. from excited to resigned

30. What does the author suggest about Homer in this passage?

- ☐ A. He is more familiar with *Star Wars* than Verna is.
- ☐ B. He wants the parade to be a successful event.
- ☐ C. He helps Verna because he has a crush on her.
- ☐ D. He plans to sabotage the *Star Wars* float.

31. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"The faces blended together until she felt as though a tide of humanity was rushing toward her at breakneck speed."

The author uses this sentence to suggest which of the following?

- ☐ **A.** Verna realizes that the crowd plans to harm her.
- ☐ **B.** Verna feels anxious about the upcoming parade.
- ☐ **C.** Verna is trying to hide her poor eyesight from Teague.
- ☐ **D.** Verna is worried about the brakes on her float.

32. The teenagers have shown their commitment to save the bay by raising money. They spent their hard-earned money in an effort to save it. Now it's time for our leaders to take action in support of their efforts. We can no longer sit back and wait for someone else to initiate action. It would be a crying shame to let our bay die because of our inaction. Anyone who wants to contribute his or her time or money to the effort to save the bay can contact me, Edwin Foster, at the community center.

What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- ☐ **A.** to show the leaders how to raise money to save the bay
- ☐ **B.** to persuade the leaders to follow the example of the teenagers
- ☐ **C.** to show pity for the teens since they gave away their money
- ☐ **D.** to convince the teens to try another fund-raising activity

33. Are you ready to take control of your life? Are you ready to be paid what you are worth? Are you ready to get off the treadmill and out of the rat race? Are you ready to start a home-based business of your own? Are you ready to team up with a world class corporate partner? Are you ready to join a team of winners? Are you ready for business to be FUN again? Find out more by calling 800-555-1212.

The author probably wrote this passage because he or she wants to

- ☐ **A.** persuade people to call an 800 number in order to sell them a product.
- ☐ **B.** persuade people to call an 800 number so they can be given a free prize.
- ☐ **C.** help people realize their true home-based business earning potential.
- ☐ **D.** entertain readers with stories of successful home based businesses.

June 21 is officially the First Day of Summer, which is entirely bogus and artificial. By June 21, we already have our first sunburn, our first dire warning about sunscreen, and our first electric bill for cooling instead of heating.

By then, the city swimming pools are already open. The amusement park has been serving

funnel cakes for more than a month.

On the first official day of summer, the Northern Hemisphere receives its maximum amount of solar radiation for the entire year. That can't be cause for celebration, can it? That sounds more like Suspicious Mole Day.

The way you feel when you get up for work and it's already light and it's still light when you come home at night—now that's worth celebrating.

This comes our way before June 21. And so do ice cream trucks, by the way.

34. The author of this passage would probably agree that

- ☐ **A.** the first "official" day of summer should not be celebrated.
- ☐ **B.** summer is the third best season after spring and winter.
- ☐ **C.** people should celebrate the first "official" day of winter.
- ☐ **D.** too many people take the joys of summer for granted.

35. Which of these best expresses the author's attitude toward summer?

- ☐ **A.** The author wishes summer would start sooner.
- ☐ **B.** The author is worried about getting sunburned.
- ☐ **C.** The author is concerned that her electric bills are too high.
- ☐ **D.** The author enjoys the summer's longer periods of daylight.

36. Totch Brown's memoirs of vanished days in the Ten Thousand Islands and the Everglades are invaluable as well as vivid and entertaining. Totch is a natural-born storyteller. His accounts of fishing and gator-hunting, as well as his life beyond the law as gator poacher and drug runner, are evocative and colorful, fresh and exciting.

What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- ☐ **A.** to inform the reader that the U.S. has the best wilderness
- ☐ **B.** to encourage the readers to visit the Ten Thousand Islands
- ☐ **C.** to entertain the readers with stories of his own travels
- ☐ **D.** to persuade the readers to read Totch Brown's memoirs

37. As an engineer, I can say without question that I have not seen this level of professional engineering anywhere in the county and maybe in all of the state since I moved here some 12 years ago. For years, the runoff in this area from previous construction has been damaging homes and property. Not only has the county addressed a long-standing problem, but it has also finished the project and dressed the edges of the road properly. All this in about one month, which shows it can be done. If this is any indication of what we may come to expect from our new county staff, we are very grateful.

What opinion is the author expressing in this selection?

- ☐ **A.** The county staff finished the project and dressed the edges of the road

properly.

- ☐ **B.** Runoff from construction has been damaging homes and property.
- ☐ **C.** The county addressed a long-standing problem.
- ☐ **D.** The new county staff is doing a good job.

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- 38.** For Donald Davis, storytelling is a way of giving and living life. He invites each listener to come along, to pull deep inside for one's own stories, to personally share and co-create the common experiences that celebrate the creative spirit. For Donald Davis, storytelling "is not what I do for a living, it is how I do all that I do while I am living."

Which sentence best describes Donald Davis's attitude toward storytelling?

- ☐ **A.** It is a very important part of his life.
- ☐ **B.** He wants his listeners to listen to his stories.
- ☐ **C.** Storytelling is a very good recreational activity.
- ☐ **D.** It is not what he does for a living.

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- 39.** Florida farm-raised clams are worth about \$18.2 million to the state's economy. Clam production has grown from 8.8 million clams in 1991 to 142 million in 2001. Florida is one of the most important clam-producing states in the country. Clams are one of the easiest shellfish to prepare. They are very nutritious and fast becoming a true Southern delicacy.

What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- ☐ **A.** entertain readers with a story about clams
- ☐ **B.** to inform readers about Florida's clam industry
- ☐ **C.** to describe to readers how a clam is prepared
- ☐ **D.** to persuade readers to start their own clam farm

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- 40.** Bran Flakes are a smart choice for a healthy breakfast. Bran Flakes are not only great tasting, but can also be part of a healthy lifestyle. Bran Flakes are 97% fat free, 100% cholesterol free, and high in fiber. While the development of heart disease depends on many factors, diets low in saturated fat and cholesterol may reduce the risk of heart disease.

This piece of writing would most likely appear

- ☐ **A.** in a Consumer Information Center publication.
 - ☐ **B.** on a poster in a private nutritionist's office.
 - ☐ **C.** on a county health department poster.
 - ☐ **D.** on the back of a Bran Flakes cereal box.
-

Answers

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. C
11. B
12. B
13. A
14. B
15. C
16. D
17. D
18. B
19. D
20. D
21. B
22. B
23. B
24. C
25. D
26. D
27. A
28. C
29. B
30. B
31. B
32. B
33. A
34. A
35. D
36. D
37. D
38. A
39. B

Explanations

1. The author has a very favorable impression of the Toyota Avalon because he feels that it is a very safe car.
2. The author adopts a mainly informal tone throughout his/her review of Alessandro's Restaurant. This technique is most likely intended to help the reader feel a personal connection with the author. If the reader feels sympathy for the author's bad experience, he or she will be less likely to eat at Alessandro's.
3. At the beginning of the article, the author states that he/she enjoyed looking at the artwork hanging in Alessandro's Restaurant. However, this positive impression is followed by several negative experiences. According to the author, "first impressions can be very deceiving." The author most likely includes positive comments to explain why he/she feels "shock and disgust" at having a negative experience in a restaurant that looks nice on the outside.
4. In the second paragraph of this review, the author suggests that his/her food was delayed because "the chef was busy draining the ocean for enough salt to make the soup inedible." The use of humor in this sentence emphasizes the author's dislike of the food at Alessandro's.
5. The author of this review provides his or her honest opinion of the service and food at Alessandro's Restaurant. Readers who are interested in trying new restaurants would most likely read this review to find out if they will enjoy the dining experience at Alessandro's.
6. In the passage the author says, "Parks, bikeways, trails . . . they are 're-creation' sites for mind, body, and spirit." The author also says even looking at a scenic vista can "reinvigorate" you. These are all positive and favorable comments about parks and recreation areas.
7. In this passage, the characters have been evacuated from their homes to a school gym due to a dangerous flood. The final sentence of the passage states that "the rain slowly began to taper off outside" as the main characters cheerfully unload supplies. The reader can conclude that the flood will soon end. The mood at the end of this passage can best be described as hopeful.
8. The characters in this passage have been evacuated from their homes to a school gym due to a flood. This dramatic setting contrasts with the cheerful attitudes of the characters as they share supplies with each other.
9. At the beginning of this passage, Merton refuses to help his friend Atticus look through a box of supplies because he doesn't want to "dig through all that stuff."

He comments that a dangerous flood is "the coolest thing to happen in years." Later in the passage, he changes his mind and says, "Getting out of class for a few days doesn't seem so great now." He also volunteers to ask his sister to lend clothes to Rhapsody. Merton changes from selfishly thinking of his own needs to compassionately thinking of others.

10. In this passage, Merton states that Wolfram has been "helping the police all day." Wolfram also recruits his friends to help unload supplies from wheelbarrows, and he "clear[s] his throat loudly" to suggest that his friends should donate items to help Rhapsody. The passage reveals that Wolfram is concerned for other people's safety and comfort.
11. In this passage, Rhapsody is evacuated to the gym with only the clothes she is wearing. She tells the other characters, "Our house was completely destroyed, but thankfully, the police were able to get us all to safety." Rhapsody's situation in this passage serves to highlight the serious consequences of the flood.
12. The author says that *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* offers much more than most martial arts fantasy films that *squeeze poor acting, slapstick humor, and silly story lines between elaborate fight scenes*. He or she also compares the movie to a Greek tragedy.
13. The author discusses how wilderness in Denali National Park is in danger due to political debate about how land should be "used." The author of this selection is clearly against oil drilling and tree cutting. He or she thinks the wilderness should be preserved "not just for nature's sake but for the sake of our souls."
14. The author wants readers to think like he does—that developing the wilderness would be a huge mistake.
15. Considering that the author of this passage loves the outdoors, he or she is probably the member of a hiking and camping club. All of the other organizations listed would probably be against the author's argument in this passage.
16. In the ninth paragraph of this passage, the characters are watching a classic horror film in "silent anticipation" and their "nerves [are] stretched to the breaking point." This description helps to build dramatic tension within the story.
17. In this passage, Ariadne hopes that the "archaic" movie *Nosferatu*, which was released in 1922, will not make her fall asleep. Ariadne's use of the word "archaic" suggests that she thinks old movies are uninteresting.
18. At the end of this passage, Fandorin has removed his intrusive brother, and he and his friends plan to finish watching a movie together. Zenovia finally agrees with Fandorin that the movie he recommended is enjoyable. The mood at the end of this passage can best be described as harmonious.
19. After being startled by Eustace's intrusion, Quincy shakily claims he knew who the intruder was and only jumped under a table to retrieve a cookie. This suggests that Quincy is embarrassed by his actions and wants to appear brave to

his friends.

20. The first sentence in the last paragraph shows that the author supports the documentary's message. He or she wants schools to show the documentary so that students can see how they are being manipulated.
21. In the last paragraph, the author says that *Merchants of Cool* should be shown in schools because this will help teenagers "realize how advertisers are manipulating them." This clearly shows that the author's purpose is to get more teenagers to watch the film.
22. The first sentence says, "*Merchants of Cool*, a PBS Frontline documentary, shows how companies exploit the youth culture." Based on the word "exploit," a reader can tell that the author is against advertising that targets teenagers. The author also wants teenagers to watch the documentary so that they "will realize how advertisers are manipulating them."
23. The reader can tell that the author's purpose for writing was to talk about how exercise, even for just a few minutes a day, can improve quality of life and lower health risks.
24. The majority of this selection gives reasons why buying the best computer within your budget is a good choice, such as the fact that it will reduce the need for an expensive upgrade.
25. At the end of this passage, Delphinia's face "darken[s] with anger," and she yells at her friend Roosevelt. The weather outside turns from rain into a thunderstorm at the same time. The bad weather reflects the stormy emotions Delphinia is experiencing in this passage.
26. In the ninth paragraph of the passage, Roosevelt admits that he owes Delphinia \$50 and proceeds to ask her for another loan. Delphinia tells him, "You are taking advantage of your friends instead of taking responsibility for your actions." She refuses to lend money to Roosevelt due to his past irresponsible behavior.
27. At the beginning of the passage, Roosevelt claims to be able to handle any kind of weather. Later, he states that he is sure his friend Wilco will loan him money. The passage suggests that Roosevelt feels overconfident about his abilities.
28. The author of this passage portrays Roosevelt as oblivious to the consequences of his actions. After offending his friend Delphinia by attempting to borrow money, he leaves to try to borrow from another friend. The sentence "Above him, the clouds darkened across the stormy sky, but he paid no attention to the ominous weather" contains imagery that suggests Roosevelt has not learned any lessons, and his problems will continue to grow worse.
29. At the beginning of the passage, Teague asks Verna why they are entering a float in the Homecoming parade. He acts anxious and embarrassed throughout much of the passage, but he finally smiles at Verna and states, "I'll settle for notoriety over anonymity any day." Teague's mood changes from hesitant to

accepting over the course of the passage.

30. In this passage, Homer offers helpful advice to Verna and Teague despite the fact that they did not follow the rules for creating a parade float. He states, "Maybe this parade won't be a total disaster after all" after helping them. The passage suggests that Homer wants the parade to be a successful event.
31. The passage states that Verna looks at the crowd of people watching the parade and imagines a "tide of humanity" rushing toward her quickly. This figurative language suggests that Verna feels anxious about the upcoming parade, and the sight of the crowd adds to her fears.
32. The author clearly states, "Now it's time for our leaders to take action in support of their efforts." His purpose in writing this article is to convince leaders that the teens' cause is a good one and that they should lend their support.
33. By asking all these questions, the author is trying to grab your interest in his product. He never describes what the product is, however. He wants you to call to get more information.
34. The author calls the first "official" day of summer "entirely bogus" then sets forth many examples of why summer begins long before June 21st.
35. She says that the extended daylight hours are "worth celebrating."
36. In the passage, the author describes the memoirs as "evocative and colorful, fresh, and exciting." He also says that Totch is a natural-born storyteller. One can assume that he describes the memoir in such positive terms in order to encourage the audience to read it, especially if the article appears in a book review section of a newspaper or magazine.
37. The author says he has not seen this level of professional engineering anywhere in the county and maybe in all of the state. He also says "If this is any indication of what we may come to expect from our new county staff, we are grateful." He is expressing gratitude for the good job the staff is doing.
38. In the passage Davis says that storytelling "is not what I do for a living, it is how I do all that I do while I am living." The author also says that for Davis, storytelling is a way of giving and living life.
39. The passage gives many facts to inform the reader about clam production and benefits. It does not try to convince the reader of anything or elicit an emotional response like laughter or tears.
40. Advertisements, such as those found on a cereal box, often make many claims in an effort to sell their product, and they include slogans like "Bran Flakes are a smart choice." It is always wise to check other sources before believing all what you read in an advertisement.